

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

ON CHLOROSPINGUS GOERINGI SCLATER AND
SALVIN.

BY J. H. RILEY.¹

Mr. B. H. Swales recently purchased a small collection of birds from the well-known collector, Señor S. Briceño, collected in the Merida Region of Venezuela and presented it to the U. S. National Museum. Amongst the lot was a specimen of *Chlorospingus goeringi*, now usually placed in the genus *Hemispingus*, but where on account of its short rounded wing, short rounded tail, heavy bill, and large strong feet it does not belong. Indeed, the strong feet and rather heavy bill remind one very much of certain sparrows, especially *Poospiza nigro-rufa* in the style of coloration, but the wing is more rounded, the feet larger and stronger, and the bill heavier. Its affinities seem to be more fringilline than tanagrine and it certainly should be removed from the position usually assigned it. The short rounded wing and large strong feet would seem to indicate that it is a ground inhabiting bird. The feathers of the lower back and rump seem to be unusually full and loose. As it apparently does not belong to any of the accepted genera, I accordingly propose the following name and diagnosis for its reception:

Orospingus, gen. nov.

Type, *Chlorospingus goeringi* Sclater and Salvin.

Superficially similar to *Hemispingus* Cabanis (type *Arremon superciliaris* Lafresnaye), but wing about equal to the tail, instead of being considerably longer; tail more rounded; feet large and strong, tarsus exceeding middle-toe and claw by less than the length of the claw of the latter, instead of being much longer than the middle toe and claw; bill much heavier, depth at base about equal to the width, instead of being greater than the width.

Coloration different; above dusky neutral gray with a white superciliary, below ochraceous orange.

Remarks.—*Chlorospingus castaneicollis* Sclater, though somewhat similar in style of coloration, differs structurally in its weaker bill and feet.

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